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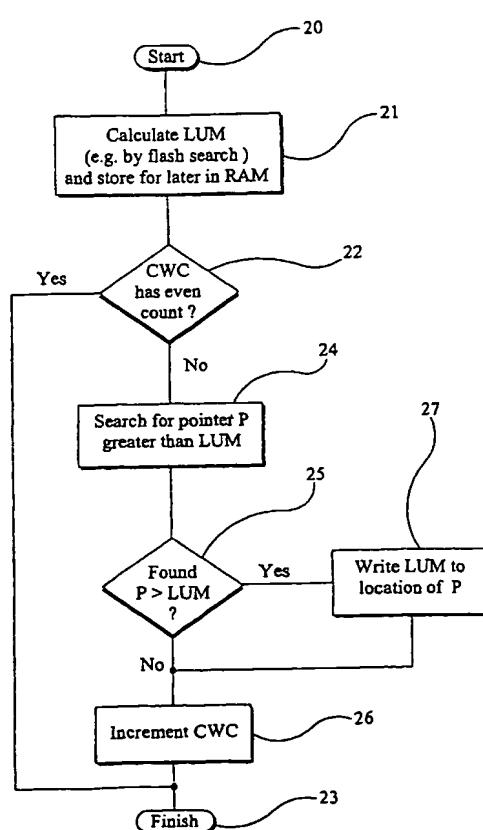
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: METHOD OF AND APPARATUS FOR DETECTING AN ERROR IN WRITING TO PERSISTENT MEMORY



(57) Abstract: A technique is provided for detecting errors in persistent memory, such as flash memory, where values of data items are stored at memory locations added consecutively to one end of the already-allocated memory segment. When a new location is added, a pointer to the address of the new location is stored at the location of a preceding value for that item. The address of the latest location is determined (21) whenever power is reapplied. The pointer fields of the locations are searched (24) for any pointer whose value is greater than the address of the last location. If such a pointer value is found, this indicates that an error occurred when writing the pointer value, for example because power was removed before completion of the pointer writing cycle. The error can be corrected by changing the pointer value to the address of the last location (27).

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Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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A	WO 00 68794 A (WEISS DIETER ;GIESECKE & DEVRIENT GMBH (DE)) 16 November 2000 (2000-11-16) abstract; figure 3 page 2 -page 6 ---	1-31
A	EP 0 834 882 A (NOKIA MOBILE PHONES LTD) 8 April 1998 (1998-04-08) column 2, line 5 - line 28 ---	1-31

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C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
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